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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Takahiro Kume

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EXAMINER

CHANG, VICTOR S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1794

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

01/03/2008

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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DETAILED ACTION

Introduction

1. Applicants' amendments and remarks filed on 12/7/2007 have been entered. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1-3, 9 and 21-23 are active.
2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
3. Rejections o maintained are withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-3, 9 and 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Prasad [US 6913517].

Prasad's invention relates to polishing pads for chemical-mechanical polishing. The polishing pad comprises a porous foam having a uniform pore size distribution [col. 1, ll. 11-13]. The porous foam comprises open cells (holes connecting cells) and about 5% or more closed cells [col. 5, ll. 21-24]. Fig. 3 is a scanning electron microscopy (SEM) image of a cross-section of a porous foam sheet. Fig. 15 is a SEM image of a solid thermoplastic polyurethane sheet at a

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greater magnification. Fig. 1 is a SEM image shows that the porous foam has a surface layer of smaller cell sizes. Fig. 8b shows an Energy Dispersive X-ray (EDX) silica mapping image a microporous foam polishing pad with the extent of penetration of the silica abrasive through the thickness after polishing 20 silicon dioxide blanket wafers (shows network of continuous holes between foam cells). Fig. 7 shows the SEMs of the top surface of the porous foam sheets having a grooved macrotexture.

Prasad's SEMs also illustrate the various dimensional relationships between the claimed elements. Prasad anticipates all the features of the claimed invention.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Victor S. Chang whose telephone number is 571-272-1474. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 am - 5:00 pm, Tuesday - Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rena Dye can be reached on 571-272-3186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Victor S Chang/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794